

16309596

I352.63

RXFO

C.3

R
for Refuse:
Recycle
Reuse
Recover

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

MAY 27 1987

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

*A Prescription for
Solid Waste Management
in Illinois*

Printed on recycled paper

Solid Waste:

Out of sight, out of mind:

This is our usual attitude toward the trash we throw away each day.

Garbage trucks carry away tons of our discarded bottles, cans, paper, and plastic and we don't give garbage a second thought.

But this solid waste is piling up to be a problem that requires not only thought but also action.

Each person in Illinois generates nearly one ton of solid waste a year. That's a total of 11 to 12 million tons *each year*. A year's collection of Illinois garbage would cover a football field, piled over 25 miles high.

LANDFILLS

Over 90 percent of Illinois household and commercial solid waste is compacted and transported to landfills for disposal. Ten years ago, about 600 general refuse landfills operated in Illinois. There are 162 today. The few remaining landfills in heavily populated northeastern Illinois are estimated to have an average remaining capacity of less than seven years. Other parts of the state are experiencing capacity shortages and higher operating costs. It's becoming clear that land-filling can no longer be the preferred method of solid waste management in Illinois.

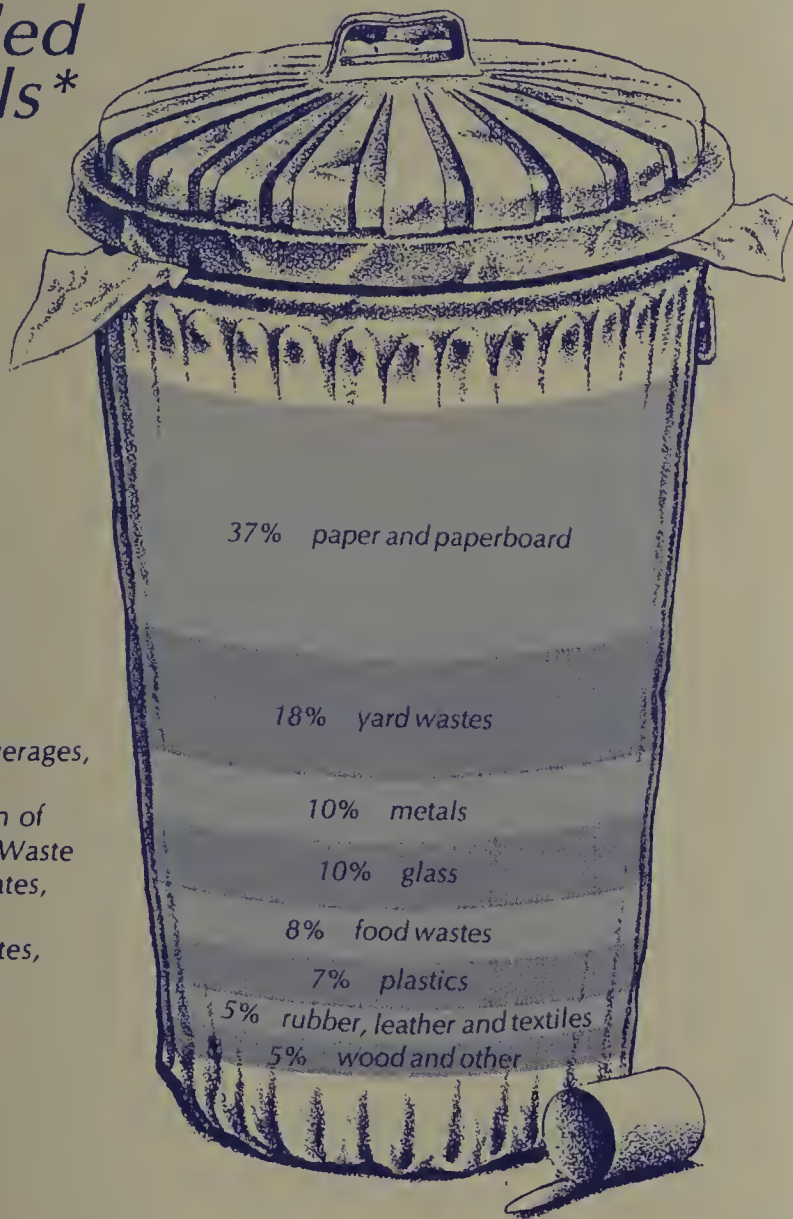


From problems to solutions

ALTERNATIVES

Much of what we throw away can be recycled and reused, composted, or burned for energy recovery and waste reduction.

*Discarded Materials**



* 1984 national averages, adapted from "Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States, 1960 to 2000," Franklin Associates, Ltd., 1986.

A recycled three-foot stack of newspapers means that one less tree has to be cut down for processing. Aluminum can manufacturers use 95 percent less energy when recycled materials are used. Glass manufacturers can realize up to a 25 percent energy savings and consume fewer raw materials by using recycled glass. Industries place high values on these recyclables as materials for manufacturing new products.

Incineration and other energy recovery technologies can provide energy through steam, electricity, or solid fuels, and reduce up to 90 percent of the volume of waste entering landfills.

THE ILLINOIS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT

To solve the problems caused by decreasing landfill space and to encourage recovery of valuable commodities, state leaders created the ILLINOIS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT. The act establishes state policy for solid waste management through programs of financial and technical assistance, research, education, and environmental regulation.

Participating agencies will attack the problems of solid waste by promoting waste management practices according to this order of preference:

- waste reduction
- recycling and reuse
- incineration with energy recovery
- incineration with volume reduction
- landfilling

STATE AGENCIES

As the lead agency, THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES will provide to local governments, businesses, and nonprofit groups:

- financial assistance for innovative recycling projects and demonstration projects in waste reduction and energy recovery. Funding is also available to promote markets for secondary materials and energy products.
- technical assistance by evaluating solid waste disposal technologies, assessing landfilling and its alternatives, and researching markets for recyclable materials and energy products.
- educational assistance through a clearinghouse of information on markets, solid waste data, and management alternatives.

ENR is also establishing pilot programs for state government to purchase recycled paper and to recycle high-grade office paper.

THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY will:

- provide grant assistance to local governments to develop solid waste management plans.
- provide funds to local governments for inspection and enhanced enforcement activities of landfill sites.
- provide annual reports on statewide landfill capacity and projections.
- operate the Industrial Materials Exchange Program, co-sponsored by the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce.
- administer the surcharge on landfill disposal fees, which are deposited into the Solid Waste Management Fund to support all state efforts under the act.

For information on assistance available from IEPA, call (217) 782-6760

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS is establishing a program to coordinate the funding of applied and basic research on issues related to solid waste.

INFORMATION

For more information on the programs of the Solid Waste Management Act, write to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Solid Waste and Renewable Resources, 325 West Adams Street, Room 300, Springfield, IL 62704-1892, or call (217) 524-5454.

To request additional materials on solid waste management, contact ENR's Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-252-8955.



ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

3 1129 00448 7245

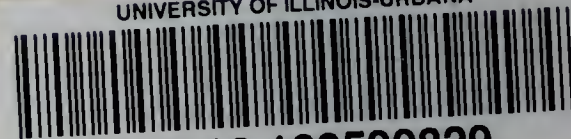
Office of Solid Waste
and Renewable Resources



Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources

325 W. Adams Street, Room 300
Springfield, IL 62704-1892

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 122599829